THE

U.F.O. Investigator

FACTS ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS (UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS)

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FALSE AF CLAIMS REVEALED BY WASHINGTON NEWSMAN

Proof that the Air Technical Intelligence Center is deliberately issuing false UFO information has been disclosed by news correspondent Bulkley Griffin, chief of a Washington bureau for several New England papers. Mr. Griffin also revealed an official AF debunking program involving the assistance of network stars such as Arthur Godfrey and Dave Garroway.

During his four-month investigation of UFO's, AF officers at ATIC tried to convince Mr. Griffin that the "flying saucers" were non-existent. The attempt backfired when the veteran newsman discovered that misleading information on important sightings had been given the press. In a three article series recently published by the Worcester *Gazette*, the New Bedford *Standard-Times* and other papers, Mr. Griffin cites three instances of false AF information.

The first concerns the famous 1948 sighting of a large rocket-shaped craft by Eastern Air Lines Capt. C.S. Chiles and his co-pilot.

● Both pilots have repeatedly stated that their airliner was rocked by turbulence caused by the passing UFO; this was officially confirmed in an AF press release on April 27, 1949 (a copy in NICAP files) and in 1955 by Capt. E.J. Ruppelt, former AF chief of the UFO project. Now ATIC is flatly denying the former AF admission. An ATIC report given Mr. Griffin states:

"No disturbance was felt from air waves; nor was there any wash or mechanical disturbance when the object passed."

As Mr. Griffin points out, turbulence would be significant evidence, proving the object came close and was no hallucination. This Eastern Air Lines case, officially listed as unsolved, has always disturbed the AF censors. Apparently counting on the public's short memory, they might have gotten away with this false debunking, but for Mr. Griffin's careful checking.

The second false ATIC claim involves another well-known case, the 1957 Levelland, Texas sighting of a large, glowing object which either landed briefly or hovered near the ground. Several motorists reported that their lights and ignition had failed from

(continued on page 2)

Yale Professor Says Space Men May be Observing Us

Prof. Harold D. Lasswell of the Yale Law School, writing in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, says that man's attempts to travel in space may be thwarted by more advanced civilizations elsewhere in space.

In a section of his report, "Men In Space," discussing visits to other planets and the problems of dealing with other civilizations of unknown stages of development, Lasswell speculates about the behavior which might be expected of the space travellers.

In conclusion he says: "All the foregoing rests, of course, on the assumption that earth's inhabitants will be able to execute programs of the kind under discussion, which is no foregone conclusion. The implications of the unidentified flying objects (UFO) may be that we are already viewed with suspicion by more advanced civilizations and that our attempts to gain a foothold elsewhere may be rebuffed as a threat to other systems of public order."

HOVERING UFO PUZZLES SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS

A new South African UFO sighting, publicly admitted by the government, is being investigated by order of Commandant-General A.B. Melville, head of the Union of So. Africa Defence Force. The incident occurred in broad daylight on Nov. 5, 1958, when a disc-shaped UFO hovered southeast of Bloemfontein, while the J.B.M. Hertzog Airport was being officially opened.

Veteran pilots of the South African Air Force were puzzled by the object, one of several seen in the past year by South African airmen. (On one occasion, F-86 Sabrejet pilots vainly tried to climb up to the level of another hovering UFO.)

"This is a most interesting occurrence," said Commandant-General Melville, "and one that will be fully investigated." (NICAP is requesting a report on the sighting from the Commandant-General.)

Coincidentally, Bloemfontein is the site at which Dr. E. C. Slipher of Lowell Observatory has carried out an intensive study of Mars during its last two approaches. On the day of this sighting, Mars was almost opposite the earth.

(continued on page 3)

CALIFORNIA EXPERTS ACCEPT UFO REALITY

A scientific conclusion that "flying saucers" are real and under intelligent control was made public this month by a group of California scientists and engineers. The group includes Dr. Robert Baker, of UCLA's astronomy department, Robert Bulkley of CalTech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Dr. Leslie Kaeburn, University of Southern California's medical department, Ward Kimball, head of Walt Disney's scientific project section, and engineers from Marquandt Aircraft and Thompson Ramo Woolridge (space consultants to the AF.)

One reason for official secrecy was indicated by Ward Kimball, who revealed Navy fears that the UFOs might be linked with several disappearances of jet planes and pilots.

These important developments were made public by Tom Towers, aviation editor, Los Angeles Examiner, who played the role of Albert M. Chop in the documentary film "U.F.O." For several years, Mr. Towers has concentrated on a factual approach to the saucer problem. Other details of the meeting have been sent in by NICAP members who attended the meeting. The evaluation was arranged by Member Zan Overall, a Rocketdyne instrumentation photographer.

The value of this group, as Towers stresses, is that it consists of qualified engineers and other well above the "extremists." Because of their knowledge of jet and aeronautical engineering, astronomy, medicine and other fields involved in astronautics, these experts are in an unusual position to examine UFO evidence.

As disclosed by Tom Towers, Ward Kimball described the Navy's concern of mysterious jet disappearances off the Florida coast, and a Navy inference that "saucers" might have been responsible. He also said that the AF is fearful of revealing all it knows about the UFO's, because it would have too much to explain.

We commend this California group for its high-level approach to the subject and its members' willingness to be named publicly with their conclusion that the UFO's are intelligently controlled. NICAP will cooperate in every way possible in the scientific analysis of future sightings planned by these experts.

The UFO INVESTIGATOR

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Editorial

There are strong indications that 1959 will see either the end of AF secrecy — through Congressional pressure — or a war-time type of censorship coupled with a new, intensive debunking campaign and open official ridicule to hide the facts. The UFO investigation must advance — or slide back, defeated. We cannot continue indefinitely at the present level, having convincing evidence of UFO reality — but lacking proof as to the meaning, the motives, all the far-reaching implications.

With *full* member support, NICAP can carry out its plans to get these facts. We believe we can end the secrecy. But we cannot do it with a skeleton staff. We are sincerely grateful to those who have gotten us new members, or have renewed or sent us donations. A number, following a plan independently suggested by Mrs. Idabel Epperson, have pledged $1 a month, for six months, hoping to help us get acutely needed office help and let NICAP roll at top speed. Unfortunately, those who have made extra efforts represent less than 15% of the total membership. We *must* have wider support. We still have not been able to add even one office worker; important projects, member mail and publications all are held up or delayed.

Of the approximate 12% who have helped, about one-half — 6% — have gotten us new members. If *you* haven't tried, please do all you can to get us just ONE new member. Show our publications to friends; ask them to join. (Blanks will be sent on request; or simply have your friends send their $5 membership in an ordinary letter.

It isn't pleasant to have to keep on asking for help. But also it isn't pleasant to work under constant strain, short-handed, making heavy financial sacrifices to keep NICAP going — when a concerted effort by most of the members would end this problem and speed up NICAP's drive for the truth.

Claims false from page 1

apparent electrical interference. An AF press release later debunked the UFO sighting as caused by St. Elmo's fire, and stated: "Object visible only a few seconds, not sustained visibility as has been implied."

But at ATIC, pointed queries by Bulkley Griffin led to the following admission, taken from an AF Intelligence investigotor's on-the-spot report: "The most reliable witness interviewed testifield that, sitting in his auto whose electrical system has been stopped, he observed the object for four to five minutes." This report, adds Mr. Griffin, also shows a plainly misleading statement in the official AF release which implies there were only one or two witnesses.

The most flagrant of the false ATIC claims concerns the famous Washington Airport sightings on July 19 and 26, 1952. Most NICAP members will recall the basic facts. On July 19, a formation of UFO's appeared on radarscopes at Washington Airport Control Center and at the airport control tower. For several hours they were tracked as they maneuvered over the White House, the Capitol and other Washington areas. During this time, several of the UFO's actually were seen by trained observers, including Capt. Casey Pierman, Capital Airlines, control tower operators at Washington Airport and Andrews AFB, and other civilian and military personnel.

On the night of July 26, the UFO visit was duplicated, with radar trackings publicly confirmed by actual sightings. One witness was AF Lt. William L. Patterson, a jet pilot who frantically radioed that several UFO's were closing around him. Others who saw the UFO's included airline crews, a CAA pilot and airport personnel at Andrews and National Airport.

In view of the recorded evidence, the new ATIC statement given to Bulkley Griffin can only be described as a deliberate falsehood. Referring to the Washington Airport cases, it declares: "A series of unidentified targets appeared on the radar scope. A careful visual search of the sky was made immediately afterward. Nothing was seen in that area."

In commenting, Mr. Griffin states: "A poverty of information is bad enough, but misleading the public is far worse." Citing AFR (Air Force Regulation) 200-2, he quotes: "Information regarding a sighting may be released to the press or the general public by the commander of the Air Force Base concerned only if it has been *positively identified as a familiar or known object.*" (Air Force italics for emphasis.)

"In other words," says Mr. Griffin, "if it is even conceivably an unknown the public is to be told nothing. Since AF bases dot the nation and since the AF is the only official source on UFO news, this constitutes pretty effective censorship."

Probing for more facts, Mr. Griffin drew an ATIC admission the AF usually evades: "Of its some 6700 UFO reports, 815 — or 12% — are still unexplained." Today, the AF publicly claims: "We are now explaining all but 1.9%" — with no mention of the 815 unsolved reports, many from jet pilots, airline captains and other highly qualified observers.

With the approval of Rep. Carl Vinson, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Mr. Griffin published part of a debunking letter sent Rep. Vinson by a high AF official:

"We are attempting to get articles placed in the public magazines with large circulation, and both Arthur Godfrey and Dave Garroway have agreed to assist us in our program to put the UFO subject in its proper perspective."

As Mr. Griffin states, this is plainly a debunking campaign. If the material given to the magazines and to Godfrey and Garroway is as distorted as the three false ATIC cases cited, then NICAP must agree with the question raised by Mr. Griffin:

"What right has a military organization to monopolize control of the UFO situation and, at least, seriously interfere with the public's knowledge regarding it?" The AF answer, says Mr. Griffin, apparently lies in AFR 200-2:

"The AF investigation and analysis of UFO's over the U.S. are directly related to its responsibility for the defense of the U.S." Later in this order, the UFO's are listed as a "possible threat to the security of the U.S." (Despite AF denials that the UFO's are real or could be of any danger.)

So far, Mr. Griffin emphasizes, the AF has prevented Congressional hearings, and it is "earnestly and discreetly fighting any congressional probe."

In summing up, Mr. Griffin asks: "Why the broad and persistent secrecy on UFO's? The commonly heard answer here is that the Air Force fears national panic if it tells all it knows about the flying saucers. To one who knows something of the Washington official mind, this explanation, with its flagrant underestimation of the intelligence of our citizens, can't be dismissed.

"Meantime, it can be reasonably argued that numerous sightings by experienced pilots and numerous visual-radar sightings can't all be successfully explained away, that so many experts can't all be wrong. And that the discovery by us that space travel is possible does not necessarily carry the corollary that we are the only and first planet to make the discovery."

We urge our members to show the preceding article to local newspaper editors, news directors of radio and TV stations, and to friends, whether they are already convinced of UFO reality or are absolute skeptics. The item "California Experts Accept UFO Reality" also should be of special value in convincing skeptics that "flying saucers" actually exist and apparently are under intelligent control.

Hovering UFO from page 1

The Bloemfontein sighting was only one of many during the approach of Mars from September through early November. Though reports are incomplete, it is believed that sightings are still at a higher tempo as Mars gradually recedes. Strangely maneuvering lights at night and disk-shaped objects in day-time have been seen all over the U.S. and Canada, and foreign sightings are starting to come in.

In one recent case (Dec. 4) a UFO sighting by Mrs. Irene Thomas, Frankfort, Ind., has been confirmed by a Frankfort *Morning Times* reporter, Mrs. Thomas first spotted an orange colored object north of the city and flying west. The *Times* reporter not only saw the first UFO but watched it turn south and join with another flashing orange-colored object. Both UFO's turned east, moving at high speed, one behind the other.

The leading UFO then stopped, climbed straight up, reversed its direction and headed north. The other object also stopped, ceased flashing, then turned from orange to a brilliant white and seemed to disappear. (NICAP: Since it was then nearly six p.m., the reported disappearance possibly was caused by fading of the UFO's glow, with the object then hidden by darkness.

A digest of selected sightings during the September-November period follows:

Sept. 22; Lake City, Tenn. Personnel at Briceville Air Force radar station and several local residents spotted a UFO with red and green lights. The object maneuvered, flying both horizontally and vertically. "I saw it," an AF lieutenant at the radar control center said, "but I'm unable to release information about it. We wanted to pursue it but we couldn't." He added that the object was the size of a silver dollar held at arm's length, indicating a UFO of enormous size.

Sept. 26-27; Springfield, Mass. Reports of unidentified flying objects which showed red and green flames and moved soundlessly touched off an investigation by AF intelligence at Westover AFB. Later, Major Paul F. Nelson, assistant chief of intelligence, said nothing conclusive was found.

Oct. 13; Ontario, Canada. Three Bear Creek Harbor residents, including a state trooper, saw a fiery red-orange ball maneuvering low over Lake Ontario at about 1:15 am – "like a burning plane trying to land." Notified by the state police, the Coast Guard searched the area for 7 ½ hours, but found nothing. The Civil Air Patrol next day said that no planes were reported missing, and indicated the search would be called off. The object, reportedly traveling at "a tremendous speed," maneuvered over the lake nearly two hours before disappearing.

Oct. 15; Newark, Ohio. Glen Hyder, an amateur astronomer, saw a "pencil-shaped" object trailing a red-orange exhaust streak across the sky from N to SSW at about 9:15 pm. Hyder, who said he was familiar with meteors, stated that this was not a meteor. The elongated object, very high and moving at great speed, returned on an opposite course about two hours later.

Oct. 16; Newark, Ohio. Photographs taken by an eighth grade student. Mike Schultz, have been turned over to the Air Force for analysis. On a school science assignment, student Schultz photographed a bright object in the sky which he first thought was a star. When he turned in the pictures, it developed that four school officials, among them his science instructor, also had seen an object that night and had kept quiet for fear of ridicule. Other observers were members of the Newark police department who had remained silent because two fellow officers, Harley Sherburn and Tom Francis, had been ridiculed for making a UFO report on Oct. 8th. (See November bulletin.) The Oct. 16th UFO was discribed as a bright object which left an after-glow when it moved.

Oct. 17; White Bear Lake, Minn. About 7:15 pm, Edward Stevens and Cecil Meredith, saw an object which they thought was a weather ballon reflecting sunlight high in the air. Then a smaller object was noticed beneath. As the men watched, the first object divided into three parts, the lower object moved up alongside the three, then all four objects flew away in formation.

Several members have asked us not to continue stories on other pages. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to finish a story on one page. Even large newspapers break up stories, and with our much smaller pages we have no alternative. We will try to make it as easy as possible to pick up continued sections.

Oct. 18; Greenfield, Mass. At about 2:30 pm, students and other witnesses at a football game saw a silver-orange disc above the field. When the object passed through thin clouds, it was still visible as a silver or white disc. The verified information was sent on to NICAP by Board Member Rev. Albert Baller.

Oct. 21; New Jersey, New York, Conn., Ohio, and Ontario, Canada. Fishermen, state police, airport tower operators, and other citizens reported sighting red, green, white, and blue "flares" in the early morning skies. Brilliant green and blue flashes were also reported. NICAP *NOTE:* Between Oct. 18th and Oct. 23rd, the Orionids meteor shower was in progress; this probably accounts for many of the reports of "flares" in this period. However, there are also indications that at least one brilliant "green fireball" type object was seen over a wide area. Although meteoric fireballs are not uncommon, the recent frequency of such reports is noteworthy. A few recent examples: the Sept. 29th Nike case fireball, an Oct. 13th fireball over Southern California, and two fireballs over Washington State on Oct. 17th and 22nd. All of these were exceptionally brilliant and widely seen.

Oct. 24; Stayton, Ore. Police in two towns said they saw an odd light move erratically across the sky for about 10 minutes at night. Moving with a rocking motion, the object kept changing color from white to reddish. "It looked as if it swung like a pendulum," said Stayton Police Chief E. Norfleet. In nearby Mill City, Police Chief C.H. Meaden also saw the object as it moved from NE to SW. No sound was heard.

Oct. 27; Gulf of Mexico. Three orange-white lights were reported maneuvering over the Gulf south of Sarasota, Florida, at night. Seen by the family of Rev. Paul Williamson, the objects first hovered, then moved rapidly away. One object went north, another south, and the third northwest. They did not resemble planes.

Nov. 1; Walkerton, Ontario. Four policemen, in constant communication by police radio, saw a bright white pulsating UFO at about 12:40 am. Constables Edward Johnston and John McCutcheon first spotted the object while patrolling near Burgoyne. "It was off to our left," said Constable Johnson. "The prominent color from it was white but it constantly changed. It appeared to pulsate and at times looked as if there were four lights coming from it."

When the policemen notified headquarters a second patrol car, carrying Constables Douglas Washburn and William Reis, was dispatched to a point one mile east of Walkerton. The men sighted the same object. From their viewpoints some 20 miles apart, the two teams compared discriptions by radio. The officers calculated that the object was hovering 3 miles NE of Paisley at a height of about 3500 feet.

Nov. 4; Intervale, N.H. An orange oval-shaped UFO which maneuvered up and down in the sky was seen at 5:20 pm by James G. McLoughlin, Public Relations Director for Wildcat Mountain Corp. He first saw two pale orange lights, then the smaller of the two disappeared. Stopping his car for a better look, McLoughlin saw a distinct oval-shaped object about 15° above the horizon. As he watched for about 20 minutes, the object repeatedly rose about 30°, then returned to its original position. McLoughlin stopped a passing motorist who conformed the sighting.

HOLIDAY BEST WISHES

We greatly appreciate all the Christmas cards, many with personal messages of encouragement, and we wish all of our members a happy holiday season.

Donald E. Keyhoe

Richard H. Hall

ANCIENT MAPS HINT AT 3000 B.C. AERIAL SURVEY

Ancient maps brought to light after World War II, and recently publicized by zoologist Ivan T. Sanderson in *Fantastic Universe* magazine, indicate that the earth was accurately mapped about 5000 years ago, possibly from the air. If the maps are authentic, it appears that some unknown pre-Greek civilization had a highly developed science and travelled extensively across the face of the earth.

Several NICAP members have asked about a possible tie-in with UFOs. Though this is purely speculative, a map expert says the mapping seems to have been done from the air.

Arlington H. Mallery, authority on ancient maps who brought the so-called "Piri Reis" maps to the attention of the U.S. Hydrographic Office, stated that they could only have been made by an aggregation of skilled scientists familiar with astronomy as well as topographic surveying. In a Georgetown University Forum panel discussion on WGBT radio Mallery said, "Maybe they had the airplane. We don't know how they could map it so accurately without the airplane." (Transcripts of the broadcast can be obtained by sending 10¢ tc Georgetown University Forum, Washington 7, D.C.)

Mallery's discovery has been conformed by M.I. Walters, former Hydrographic Office cartographer, and Rev. Daniel Linehan, S.J., Boston College seismologist and IGY scientific panel member. Rev. Linehan, who has participated in Antarctic seismic explorations, said that soundings so far had proved the maps to be amazingly accurate.

Projected in an unfamiliar way which initially puzzled cartographers, the maps showed the coastlines of the South Atlantic in amazing detail. In addition, Mr. Mallery stated, they recorded not only part of the Antarctic coastline which is now buried under ice, but also every mountain range in Northern Canada and Alaska—including some which the Army Map Service did not have.

The Piri Reis maps are said to be the oldest authentic records of man; however, their full significance will probably not be known until more archeological evidence is obtained.

VOLUNTEER HELP

At the November meeting in Washington, several area members generously offered part-time assistance to offset our reduced office staff. We would appreciate hearing from any other area members who can spare a few hours now and then. If interested, please call NOrth 7-9434 or pay us a visit at 1536 Connecticut Avenue (fourth floor), Washington, D. C.

SIGNALS FROM UNKNOWN SATELLITE UNEXPLAINED

Adding to the mystery of the strange signals received from an unknown satellite, Erik Bergaust, editor of *Missiles and Rockets* Magazine, reports that the Soviet have fired a rocket past the moon and toward Mars. The period indicated, the last two weeks of November, covers the time of the strange signals as first picked up by scientists at the Lockheed missile tracking station. (They were later conformed by a Standard Oil Company research laboratory at Cleveland.)

If the Bergaust report is correct, then two different objects were involved. The first disclosure, from the Lockheed trackers, said that on Nov. 26 they had picked up "mysterious new man-made signals from outer space," heard as a three-step telemeter tone, received on a frequency of 20.003 megacycles, it was stated to be "definitely from a man-made instrument," but not from any of the Russian or U.S. satellites known to be in space. An *orbiting* object was indicated.

On Dec. 4, scientists at the Standard Oil research station revealed they also had been tracking an unknown object, with signals on 20.01 megacycles. A.L. Jones, head of the laboratory, said they did not correspond with the orbit of Sputnik III and that indications were the unknown satellite was orbiting about 5500 miles out. The signals, he said, were clear and of the telemetering type. (Automatic transmission of selected data to earth receivers. Ed.)

On the face of it, Mr. Bergaust's report seems to have no link with the "unknown satellite" signals. However, he did state that the Russian moon-Mars rocket was tracked for three days by radio, in the United States. (The Pentagon has officially denied this, but a denial could be expected, even if the report is true. The Defense Dept. would probably withhold the facts until we either had more information or had some U.S. triumph — such as a moon-shot — to offset such a Soviet success.)

The Dec. 8th *Newsweek* suggests the unknown object may be a Russian "spy satellite" with a gyro-stabilized camera constantly pointed toward earth, scanning the globe as it rotates beneath. Pictures of rocket bases, atomic centers, etc., could be transmitted by radio on "triggering" signals from USSR stations. *Newsweek* also suggests the satellite may be painted a "sinister, unreflective black," to avoid visual detection. This last seems unlikely, since the noted astronomer Dr. Clyde Tombaugh, answering a NICAP query, says that black paint would soon be eroded by meteoritic action.

However, the "spy satellite" answer could explain Russian failure to claim the launching publicly, as a propaganda victory. If this answer is correct, it may

(see next column)

be some time before we will know the facts. If time passes without such proof, then the possibility of a UFO explanation will have to be re-examined.

If the object is not earth-made, this would mean a UFO was duplicating our telemeter signals, purpose unknown. If they desired to initiate communication, less technical signals would seem more likely.

If the unknown satellite should prove from another world, it would raise several questions. One: Was it put in orbit as part of the usually increased surveillance as Mars nears earth? Or did this follow the firing of a USSR moon-Mars rocket — was it perhaps a *new* inspection of the earth to learn the reason for a missile fired near Mars?

Though the odds favor the Russian spy-satellite answer, we will list this problem for full evaluation by a NICAP scientific committee as soon as enough information is received.

Army Intelligence Quizzes NICAP Member

On Sept. 24, 1958, NICAP Member Larry W. Bryant was officially questioned about his interest in UFO's by two CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps) agents at Fort Monroe, Va. Two days before, Bryant had inserted an ad in the *Daily Bulletin*, the Army paper at Ft. Monroe, suggesting that personnel interested in UFO's communicate with his Newport News organization, the Air Research Group.

As a result of this, Bryant was summoned to the office of Maj. W. M. Hartness, C.O., Army CIC Detachment, Fort Monroe, and quizzed for over an hour regarding his reasons for the advertisement and his ideas about UFO's. No explanation was given for the Army's concern about objects which the AF says do not exist.

Norway Admits UFO Secrecy

Norway has been added to the list of countries which have admitted official secrecy on UFOs. In answer to a NICAP inquiry, Col. O.B. Engvik, Air Attache of the Norwegian Embassy, said that information on UFOs was classified.

"Our Air Force's UFO-material is mainly of security graded nature," he said, "and cannot be put to the disposal of NICAP."

Thus the official Royal Norwegian Air Force policy is revealed as similar to that of the British Air Ministry, the U.S. Air Force, and the Air Forces of other countries which have kept UFO findings secret.

After a similar query, the Danish Embassy referred NICAP to private UFO organizations in Denmark. It did not admit any *official* investigations. However, the Danish press has indicated that such investigations have been made.

AKRON GROUP EXPOSES AF COVER-UP

A false official statement given by AF Headquarters to an Ohio Congressman, and several contradictions of fact, have been unearthed by the UFO Research Committee of Akron. The false information came to light in an outstanding investigation of the so-called Sheffield Lake case of Sept. 21, 1958.

The Akron group, which includes several NICAP members, has printed a 13-page account showing the AF letter to Rep. A. D. Baumhart, Jr., listing statements by AF Intelligence investigators, and giving reports by the key witnesses. The basic points follow, reprinted by permission of the Akron UFO Research Committee.

About 3 a.m., Sept. 21, 1958, Mrs. Wm. Fitzgerald, Sheffield Lake, Ohio, saw a bright glow which penetrated the thick curtains of her bedroom. Looking out, she saw a disc-shaped, aluminum-colored object a few feet above the ground. It had a dome or "hump" in the center, about 6 feet high; the object's diameter was estimated between 20 and 22 feet.

The UFO, said Mrs. Fitzgerald, moved at low altitude over her neighbor's yard, then luminescent pink-gray smoke came from two openings in the rim. It made two tight turns, shot up swiftly. During the entire time, it made a muffled whirring or humming sound. Next morning, she learned that her 10-year-old son John had been awakened by the glow and had also seen and heard the strange object. Their descriptions tallied.

Later, it developed that Mrs. Jack T. Stewart of nearby Lorain, Ohio (2 to 3 miles distant) had been awakened at 2:30 a.m. that night by a bright glow. She and her husband had seen a round, red object with a "hump" or protrusion. It was moving west.

Other witnesses on record include a Mrs. Greco of Lorain, who at about 2 a.m. on the 21st also had watched a "big red ball" moving near her home, making a low pulsating sound. Another witness saw a glow, but no object; two others heard a strange sound, unlike a jet or prop aircraft. (Full names, addresses, reports, taped by the Akron group.)

On Sept. 25, two of the Akron committee interviewed Mrs. Fitzgerald, sent a report to ATIC, Dayton. AF Intelligence sergeants Hof and Haistan, sent by ATIC, briefly interviewed Mrs. Fitzgerald and her son in the presence of one Akron committeeman. Only a few questions were asked including an obvious one: "Have you recently been under medical care?" The others: "Was it raining? What was the weather like? Did the smoke appear fluorescent? When the object left, did it go up quickly? Did it appear to be aluminum?" Little interest was shown in the witnesses' reports on sound, shape, maneuvers. The AF men made no attempt to query others in the neighborhood.

Following this, Mrs. Fitzgerald wrote Rep. Baumhart and he queried the AF. On Oct. 31, Rep. Baumhart received an official answer from the AF Secretary's Office, signed by Maj. Gen. W. P. Fisher, recently appointed Director of Legislative Liaison. (NICAP: Gen. Fisher succeeded Gen. Joe Kelly, Jr., who from 1952 to 1958 issued numerous contradictory UFO statements, alternately denying, then admitting that UFO information was withheld.)

The following is a verbatim quotation from Gen. Fisher's letter, duplicated in the Akron report:

"The investigation revealed that a railroad track ran near the home of Mrs. Fitzgerald. The night of Mrs. Fitzgerald's sighting, a train passed the house at approximately the same hour of the reported sighting. The train had a rotating headlight which, under some conditions, would produce unusual effects. Contact was also made with Chief Bosun (NICAP: The correct spelling is "Boatswain.") Mate William Schott of the Coast Guard Station, Lorain, Ohio. Chief Schott reported that he was using his spotlight in an attempt to attract the attention of another ship, and that the light was directed toward shore in the general direction of Mrs. Fitzgerald's house. The time and the date of this incident coincide with those reported by Mrs. Fitzgerald. Mrs. Steward of Lorain, Ohio, a witness listed in Mrs. Fitzgerald's report, could not recall anything unusual on the night of the reported sighting. Mr. Grego of Lorain, another witness, was not available for interview. The weather at the time of the incident was a misty rain with haze and smoke.

"The conclusion of the Air Force investigators was that the combination of moving lights, noise of the train and prevailing weather account for the illusion experienced by Mrs. Fitzgerald. The Air Technical Intelligence Center, after evaluating the evidence in this case, concurred with the conclusion of the investigators.

Sincerely yours,

W. P. Fisher,
Major General, USAF,
Director
Legislative Liaison

Following are the main points made by the Akron committee:

1. The AF statement regarding Mrs. Stewart (misspelled by Gen. Fisher's office as Steward! – NICAP) is false. The Akron report includes a photographed, signed statement by Mrs. Jack T. Stewart, Lorain, Ohio, containing the following items:

"At 2:30 a.m., on the 21st of September, 1958, I was awakened by a light flooding in my window. ... I saw a round red object apparently several times bigger than the moon (NICAP: This is for measure comparisons, not intended as an actual size) ... At the top of the object was a "hump" or protrusion ... I called my husband to come see the object. He looked at it but was unable to identify it...

"On October 4, 1958, I was visited by Sgt. Hof and Sgt. Haistan from the Air Force Intelligence Department. I repeated the account of my experience as written above. The sergeants talked to me about the sighting for about ten minutes. They were going to have me fill out a report form but then decided against it.

signed Mrs. J. T. Stewart
Mrs. Jack T. Stewart,
(Street address in Akron committee and NICAP files.)
Lorain, Ohio.

2. It was not MR. but MRS. Grego who witnessed the similar "round red ball." It seems clear the sergeants made no attempt to see her. The Akron group has her detailed report.

3. Regarding the Fitzgerald case investigation and evaluation:

A. The AF agents made no attempt to check train headlight appearances at the Fitzgerald home, though an Akron committeeman asked them to do so, and Mrs. Fitzgerald told the AF men that the headlight beam never comes through her window. Later, the Akron group made careful tests and confirmed this.

B. According to Chief Boatswain Mate Schott, the Coast Guard patrol boat was about 4½ miles from the Fitzgerald house at time involved. Second, the spotlight used has a broad, diffused beam for spotting objects not too far away; it is not a typical searchlight. Third, between the house and Lake Erie are trees and houses; the lake cannot be seen from the house. Even a searchlight type of beam would have had to go through downtown Lorain buildings, as well as the trees. The two sergeants made no careful check with Chief Schott; the Akron group did check carefully and has a signed statement on the above facts.

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NICAP agrees with the Akron UFO Research Committee Statement: "It is obvious that the Air Force conclusion in this report was based on a complete disregard for the facts." It would appear to NICAP that the Intelligence sergeants, acting under orders, made every attempt to explain away and discredit the report. Presumably they made a full and *correct* report to ATIC, which either was withheld from AF HQ, or was altered in the final report to Rep. Baumhart. This does not mean that Gen. Fisher knew he was relaying false information; but *somewhere at a high AF level* there must have been full knowledge of this falsification. Any other answer involves incredible bungling, from the top-level at ATIC down to the sergeant investigators.

Most important, it proves a cynical disregard for the rights of Congressmen who ask for facts about UFO's. NICAP congratulates the Akron group for this excellent on-the-spot job, for its expensive printed documentation in "The Fitzgerald Report." We predict this proof of a deliberate AF cover-up will play an important part in breaking the official secrecy in 1959.

UFOs FROM SPACE, NOT U.S., ROCKET EXPERT SAYS

A recent statement by rocket expert Prof. Hermann Oberth, who just returned to Germany after work on a secret project at the Army Missile Center in Alabama, adds to the evidence against the UFO's being secret U.S. devices.

On November 7th Prof. Oberth told the press in Frankfurt, Germany, that he believed "very intelligent beings" from space are observing the earth. He also stated that the U.S. is working intensively on an "electric" space ship which will probably fly to the moon within 5 years.

In 1954 Prof. Oberth, in an article for "American Weekly," stated his conviction that "flying saucers" were real and piloted by intelligent beings. During his tenure at the Huntsville, Alabama, missile center, he apparently found nothing official to cause him to change his opinion. It seems reasonable to suppose that Prof. Oberth had access to armed forces information and discussions on space travel and related fields, possibly including UFOs. In his latest statement, he distinguished clearly between advanced U.S. tests and UFOs, ruling out completely any idea that UFOs could be U.S. creations.

Poll Shows Even Split On Oberth Claim

A Nashville, Tenn. poll based on Prof. Hermann Oberth's statement that intelligent beings from space are observing the earth shows that half of those questioned did not accept the possibility. The other half saw no reason to doubt it, or were noncommital.

In street interviews, Charles L. Fontenay, of the Nashville *Tennessean*, quizzed several men and women at random. The question: "Dr. Hermann Oberth, the rocket scientist, has said he believes there are intelligent creatures in space, outside the earth's atmosphere. Do you think he is right, or could be right?" Typical answers follow:

- A.W. Schroeder, salesman—"I have no idea. I don't see why there couldn't be."
- Dortch Oldham, publishing firm sales manager—"I'm not an authority, but I think it's ridiculous. I don't believe anything I can't see."
- A.M. Markham, accountant—"I'd say he could be right."
- Edward Bonnell, lithographer—"I don't know much about it. I haven't studied it."
- Miss Nancy Baggott, telephone service representative—"No, I'm afraid I don't. I just feel like this is the only intelligent life in the universe."

Mystery Crashes Remain Unexplained

No explanation has been released by the Air Force for the crash of four jets – two on undisclosed high-altitude missions – during a 24-hour period last July. As this issue goes to press, the AF crash investigation is still classified and no public report is expected.

Similar unexplained crashes have at times been linked with Unidentified Flying Objects, despite the same lack of factual evidence. But in this case there is a reasonable possibility that two of the planes might have been making a secret study of UFOs.

The four accidents, on July 8-9, occurred within a 100-mile Texas-New Mexico area. Two of the jets, Lockheed U-2's, were described as super-secret, designed for "special high altitude weather projects." The other two were F-100-D Super-Sabre jets from Cannon AFB, Clovis, N.M.

The two special-project U-2's both exploded in the air. The F-100's crashed close together near their base. All four pilots were killed.

After one exploded U-2 crashed near Tucumcari, N.M., Air Police hastily blocked off a 75-mile area around it. A team of AF investigators, flown in by helicopter, searched the wreckage for what they described as "highly classified documents." The other U-2, which exploded over Wayside, Texas, also was quickly put under AF guard, but no official statement was made about the classified project.

After one of the U-2 crashes, law officers were ordered by the AF not to touch any parts of the wreck unless a life was at stake. Later, one state policeman told reporters there was "something funny" about the accidents. AF authorities denied there was any connection between the four crashes and also discounted the possibility of sabotage.

While the four crashes could have been only a coincidence, the resulting disclosure of the secret U-2 project introduces a puzzling factor. It is very unlikely that weather information would be restricted at all – especially so "highly classified" as to require an anxious search for such records.

Since the crashes, a little more information about the U-2's has come out. Described as "high altitude research planes," they have extremely long wings, requiring wingtip wheels when on the ground. They were designed to operate well above 60,000 feet, with specially trained pilots. Their equipment includes long-range radar. The purpose could hardly be to secure ordinary high-altitude weather data, since this is already a routine function of the Weather Bureau and the military weather services.

Though this still does not prove any link with UFOs, it is possible that the U-2's were – and are – used to observe

(see next column)

UFOs in areas where they have been frequently reported. The only other admitted AF base with U-2's is at Puerto Rico, adjacent to the Caribbean area where there also have been many UFO sightings.

If it should prove that the U-2's were actually engaged in UFO surveillance, then the crashes could have unusual significance, though it still would not prove any outright hostility. There may be some entirely different explanation for the U-2 operations but until this is known the UFO possibility cannot be entirely ignored.

AF ADMITS KEY CASE UNSOLVED

In a recent letter to a NICAP member, the Air Force has admitted that a key UFO report from 1953 is still unsolved. Earlier, Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt, Chief of Project Blue Book, had said of the case: "This was an unknown—the best." In its recent letter the Air Force revealed that the report was fully substantiated by photographs.

On the night of August 12, 1953, two F-84 jets from Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, were vectored in, at separate times, on a UFO which had been picked up by ground radar. The first pilot chased the object 120 miles, then turned back with the UFO following him. The second pilot then locked onto the object with his radar and chased it for 160 miles. When he gave up the chase and turned back, the UFO continued on to the north and was seen speeding past G.O.C. posts which had been altered.

In a letter to NICAP member Zan Overall, the AF admitted for the first time that both gun-camera and radarscope photographs were made of the object. The AF claimed that they were "not sufficiently clear for evaluation." However, the photographs were proof that the UFO was a solid object. "The Ellsworth Air Force Base case is still listed as unknown or unsolved," the AF letter added.

Capt. Ruppelt states that the pilot of the second jet – a former skeptic – became frightened when he saw the UFO in front of him and his gun-sight radar flicked on indicating a solid object. Each time he attempted to close in on it, the UFO would speed up and pull away. In each chase, the UFO and the pursuing jet were recorded on ground radar.

In the letter to Air Technical Intelligence Center, Mr. Overall asked specific questions about the "Ellsworth AFB case," and inquired about its present status. Surprisingly, the reply from the AF stated that Capt. Ruppelt's account of the case was substantially correct and referred to the previously unreported photographs.

ROCKET SHOT TO VENUS HINTED

Rumors that the U.S. will attempt to fire a rocket to Venus early in '59 have been strengthened in a recent order of the ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency.) The ARPA has told the Air Force to provide two Thor-Able rocket combinations for an unspecified space investigation. Officials declined comment on a report the rocket would be aimed toward Venus.

Prior to this, Lt. Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, top AF missile officer, said the combination in the Pioneer rocket, which reached a third of the distance to the moon, could accelerate a missile to the speed required to reach Venus. In 1959, Venus will be nearer the earth than Mars, and one or more Venus shots probably will be tried.

Exactly what the AF hopes to learn from a Venus shot has never been clearly explained. (The same applies to the Mars shot reportedly made by the Russians.) If we were ready with a reconnaissance satellite capable of orbiting Venus, important information could be sent back — including any signs of intelligent life there. But failure even to orbit the moon, to date, indicates that a true Venus reconnaissance is not imminent.

If Venus is inhabited by intelligent life (see suggestion by Astronomer Frank Korkosz on this page)the arrival of an earth-launched rocket — either by a crash-landing or by assuming an orbit — would presumably cause excitement on the planet. If a space-traveling race exists there, we might expect to see an increase of UFO sightings as a result, especially as Venus nears earth.

For this reason, the accompanying article, "Venus as a UFO Source," should be of special interest. It was prepared prior to rumors of the ARPA Venus shot.

Astronomer Says Venus May Have Life

Frank Korkosz, astronomer at the Springfield, Mass., Museum of Science, has stated his belief that "there is a possibility of life on Venus." Mr. Korkosz, who has studied the skies for years in his capacity as Director of the museum planetarium, added that creatures on Venus may have developed space ships capable of travelling to earth for observation purposes. Since Venus approaches earth more closely than any other planet, he suggested, the distances involved would not be insurmountable.

For members who asked about extra copies: The single copy price (postpaid) for the 8-page magazine is 50 cents; five for $2. For the 4-page bulletin, 35 cents; three for $1.00. (All first-class mail.)

Venus As A UFO Source

The possibility that Venus may be a base for UFO's has been given impetus by NICAP's discovery of a UFO cycle apparently linked with the planet's close approach.

During November, 1957, when hundreds of UFO's were reported by trained observers and tracked by radar, Venus was nearing inferior conjunction (the closest approach to the earth, approximately 26 million miles.)

In early November, as Venus neared the earth, UFO sightings began to pour in, here and abroad. The key reports, fully verified and related by pilots, airport personnel, rocket experts and other trained observers, described seemingly controlled objects, operating singly or in formations.

A few of the single UFO sightings were explained away by the Air Force as caused by the increased glow of Venus itself. This may have been true in a few cases reported by inexperienced observers. But it could not possibly apply to the verified formation reports.

As Venus pulled away from the earth, sightings slowed down again. On its outward journey, in March of this year, very few significant UFO sightings were recorded. It was after this when NICAP's new associate editor, Mr. Richard Hall, began to compare previous Venus approaches with recorded UFO sightings.

Preliminary evaluation indicates that at least two other sudden increases in UFO sightings coincided with the approach of Venus. Dates and figures will be published when the evaluation is completed.

Venus as a UFO source has been suggested before; even the Air Force raised this possibility in its April 27, 1949 discussion. Unfortunately, little is known definitely about Venus, though it comes closer to earth than any other planet. It is nearest in size to the earth and has an almost circular orbit with a year of 225 days. A dense atmosphere, which telescopes cannot penetrate, completely veils its surface.

Spectroscopic readings indicate the presence of a large amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. What lies beneath, however, is unknown. Some astronomers speculate that there may be dense jungles similar to an early stage of the earth's development. Others picture a barren surface, inimical to life as we know it. Still others, including Dr. Menzel of Harvard, believe Venus is probably covered, or nearly so, by water.

Some scientists have said the methane gas in the Venus atmosphere would make human life impossible. This may be true, for life *as we know it*, though spacesuits should make it relatively easy for explorers from earth to operate there. But there is nothing to rule out intelligent beings which are adapted to the Venus atmosphere and climate. Some of our space scientists have even seriously suggested trying to breed a "special type of man" who could breathe water or gas instead of air. This was recently disclosed by Blaine Levendahl, zoologist of the University of California, to the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences. Though the purpose would be to create a man who would better withstand the shock of space-ship launching and reentry, the same principle would seem to apply to possible intelligent beings on Venus.

According to most scientists, Venus and Mars are the only two solar-system planets on which it is remotely possible for intelligent life to exist. Sir H. Spencer Jones, former Astronomer Royal of England, suggests that life on Mars, if any, would probably be dying out, while life on Venus might still not have reached its peak.

If intelligent creatures are connected with UFO's operating from Venus, they could be actual Venusians or aliens from another world, using it as a base. If such beings do make use of Venus' close approaches to explore the earth in large numbers, the next "Venus flap" would be expected in June, 1959.

Venusian Attack Hoax

For several weeks, a warning of imminent attack by space-traveling Venusians has been sent from a source in Chile to well-known citizens and UFO groups all over the world. A former Gestapo agent who escaped from Germany is believed back of the warning, but the motive is still undetermined.

Investigation by a Chilean member of NICAP in Santiago has disclosed the main details. Printed in German, the circularized warning claims that the Venusian attack is intended to result in the setting up of a world republic by beings from Venus.

All nuclear weapons and atomic energy plants will be destroyed, states the circularized pamphlet. All governments are warned not to resist but to withdraw everyone from the plants marked for destruction. The warning also contains a "world republic constitution" and lists of "world states" with new frontiers, also maps with special air traffic zones for the United States, Europe and Soviet Russia.

Though our Santiago member agrees this is only "a very bad hoax," he still has been unable to discover the motive for such an elaborate and expensive scheme.

NICAP joins with other serious UFO research organizations in branding this as a crude, though unexplained hoax. It is hoped that a full explanation soon can be found and made public.

UFO Analysis

A group of scientists in Spain recently set up a study center to investigate "unexplained phenomena in space and unidentified objects in the skies."

Science Suggests Answers To UFO Performances

Current studies of rocket and missile problems are providing answers for the main scientific objections to UFOs. Many scientists have rejected the idea that UFOs could be space ships, stating that any solid body moving through the earth's atmosphere at the reported extremely high speeds would burn up due to air friction. Other scientists have questioned the supposed means of propulsion and the reported sharp turns made by UFOs. Recent experiments, however, have indicated that heated air around a missile can be dispersed electro-magnetically. Explanations for other features of UFO performance are also coming to light.

In a recent report to the American Rocket Society, Dr. Russell M. Kulsrud (Princeton University physicist) stated that the new field of hydromagnetics (formerly called magnetohydrodynamics) might help solve the missile re-entry problem. In nuclear fusion devices (H-bombs, for example) magnetic fields are used to keep electrified gases away from the walls of a container long enough for the nuclear reaction to take place. The same principle, he said, might be used to deflect hot gases generated by devices plunging into the atmosphere.

(Dr. W. F. Hilton, Chief Aerodynamicist for Armstrong-Whitworth Aircraft Co. in England, has conducted experiments of this type with "encouraging results" in his study of the re-entry problem. (See UFO INVESTIGATOR NO. 5). Dr. Hilton also endorsed the saucer shape as a desirable one for space travel.)

Dr. Kulsrud, who is working on a plasma-physics study called Project Matterhorn at Princeton, also said that the science-fiction concept of using invisible "force fields" to repel incoming objects was becoming a reality in hydromagnetics. Hydromagnetics deals with the reaction of fluids to a large magnetic field and a smaller electric field.

The increasing mention of the use of electro-magnetism in space vehicles, both as a method of propulsion and protection, naturally suggests that beings from other planets could have developed this concept already. This would explain the UFOs apparent immunity to air friction, and suggest a possible power source.

The Armed Forces are currently exploring the possibilities of ion-propulsion, and other methods involving the electrical nature of matter. In November, famed rocket expert Hermann Oberth stated that present rocket fuels were not good enough for extensive space travel, and announced that the U.S. was developing an "electric" space ship. A recent Air Force project, reported in the New York *Times* on November 19th, is a missile which would be propelled by atomic oxygen, scooping its fuel supply from the atmosphere. Scientists are already predicting speeds of tens of thousands miles per hour for space vehicles using "electrical" sources of power. In theory, any speeds short of the speed of light are attainable. (Light travels at approximately 670,000,000 mph.)

In another statement showing the similarities between proposed aerial devices and UFOs, Dr. Robert A. Cornog (physicist for Space Technology Laboratories in Los Angeles) described a rocket liner of the near future which would look like a "flying saucer". Dr. Cornog told the American Rocket Society that the skin of the airliner would glow red-hot as it traveled at about 3000 mph through the night sky. The passengers, he said, would feel no discomfort in their insulated cabin.

As for the sharp turns which some scientists have claimed would rule out the possibility of UFOs being piloted craft, it has been suggested that an artificial gravity field could solve that problem. It is interesting to note that two physicists, at a recent meeting of the American Physical Society, claimed to have produced a measureable gravity field with experiments on a device consisting of magnets mounted on a rotating disc. Science seems to be on the way toward duplicating the appearances and performances of "flying saucers."

NICAP MEMBERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

NICAP has members in the following countries: England, Scotland, Australia, Germany, Union of South Africa, Canada, Japan, Chile, France, West Indies, Brazil, New Zealand, Venezuela, Italy, Switzerland, Mexico, India, Philippine Islands, Denmark, Belgian Congo, Sweden, Argentina, Colombia, Iceland, Haiti, and Cuba.

Because of the delay in hearing from foreign members, ballots on items listed in Issue 5 are still being counted. The deadline is Dec. 31; final results will be announced as soon as possible. So far, there has been no important change in the percentages; the majority of members have solidly backed NICAP's policies.

Issues 1 and 2 Reprints

Reprints of No. 1 and No. 2 issues of the UFO INVESTIGATOR, each one a 32-page edition, may now be secured for $1 each. Copies will be sent postpaid, first class. Both issues, reprinted after frequent requests, contain still timely information, including interesting UFO sightings, by AF, Navy and airline pilots, and reports on behind-the-scenes official attempts to keep the facts censored. Because of high reprint costs, the editions were limited; we now have only about 100 copies of each, after filling paid orders.

Civil Defense Official Protests Secrecy

NICAP member Mrs. Frank Dargay, who has secured several important statements from officials in Ohio about UFOs, recently obtained the following statement from Lake County Civil Defense Director Kenneth E. Locke:

"It is well known from past history and experience that the truth cannot be shielded long from the eyes of those who desire to know the truth. Only an enlightened public can react in a calm, rational manner to any given situation. It appears quite evident that the entire UFO field has gone beyond the scope and capabilities of the Armed Forces and Pentagon officials.

"I believe that the Armed Forces are withholding UFO information that should be released to the public. The time for a completely frank and objective analysis of the UFOs is at hand."

Mrs. Dargay obtained this statement from Locke and arranged to broadcast it over station KYW in Cleveland.

LIFE THROUGHOUT UNIVERSE

Dr. Melvin Calvin of the University of California recently stated that "post-human" life must be present throughout the universe pointing out that man, the highest evolutionary product on earth, is now learning how to navigate in space he added: "When we realize that other organisms may be doing similar things at some millions of regions in the universe, we see that life itself and man, as one representative of that state of organization of matter, becomes a cosmic influence himself." Dr. Calvin accepted the belief that there are probably 100 million or more planets with well-organized life on them.

UFO magazine

A new edition of the UFO NEWSLETTER, edited and published by Lee Munsick, former associate editor of NICAP, is being prepared for mailing in January. This refutes a rumor that the NEWSLETTER had folded. The magazine now includes three former UFO publications — the C.R.I.F.O. ORBIT, SATELLITE, and the UFO DIGEST. Address: P.O. Box 606, Morristown, N.J.

MEMBERS

Please notify us about changes of address. A number of members' publications have been returned, marked "Unknown" or "Moved; left no address."

Because of the long delay in third-class mail, as we near Christmas, we have sent this issue first class, at four times the usual cost. The next bulletin, however, will have to go third-class, unless a large increase in memberships permits us to continue the more expensive mailing

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